

News Release For immediate release

President Bush signs disaster declaration for 14 more Indiana counties

MARTINSVILLE (June 13, 2008) – Governor Mitch Daniels was informed this afternoon by Federal Emergency Management Agency Administration R. David Paulison that President George W. Bush has approved 14 more Indiana counties for federal assistance for homeowners, renters and businesses. That brings the total number of approved Indiana counties to 22.

The President's action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in Adams, Brown, Clay, Daviess, Dearborn, Greene, Henry, Jackson, Jennings, Knox, Owen, Rush, Shelby, and Sullivan counties.

On June 11, the President took action to make funding available to affected individuals in Bartholomew, Hancock, Johnson, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Vermillion and Vigo counties. Damage assessments for other counties are continuing and are being submitted to the federal government as they are completed.

Daniels was informed of the new declarations by Paulison in Martinsville. Paulison, who is traveling to flood-ravaged Midwestern states, met the governor at the state's new disaster assistance center late this afternoon. The state opened centers in Martinsville, Columbus and Terre Haute today.

On Saturday beginning at noon, state services will be available in Indianapolis at the Community Alliance of the Far Eastside (CAFÉ), 8902 E. 38th Street. FEMA is expected to have staff at the same site no later than Monday.

A one-stop center will open Monday at 9 a.m. in Johnson County at the Franklin College Fine Arts Center, 211 Branigan Boulevard. The state is working quickly to identify locations for centers in more counties.

Before arriving in Martinsville, the governor had lunch with firefighters and other first responders who have been assisting with water issues in Jasonville, then checked on the state assistance center that opened today in Terre Haute.

Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

Residents and business owners who sustained losses in those counties can begin applying for assistance now by registering online at http://www.fema.gov/ or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (local time) seven days a week.

On Thursday, the state will provide information about the establishment of on-site locations for FEMA application assistance and help with state services and when those sites are projected to open.

More information about Indiana's response to severe weather may be found at this link: www.emergency.in.gov

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